

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10-21 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 2-9 have been amended.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and its own limitation. Claims 3 and 4 have also been amended so that they only depend on claim 2. Claims 5-9 depend on claim 4. Accordingly, claims 3-9 as amended should also be allowable because they all depend on claim 2.

Applicants expressly state that the sole purpose of the above claim amendments and cancellations is to expedite prosecution. No other implications, especially those indicated by the *Festo* cases shall be drawn on the above claim amendments and cancellations.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable disposition is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, or any aspect of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

No fee other than the fee for the extension of time is believed due at this time. Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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